



Title III Consortium

ELL Network

Notes: January 21, 2010

Members Present:

Salome' Austin-Dodge (Beatrice), Brenda Beachler (Fairbury), Ihlina Blanco (Wilber-Clatonia), Janet Burger (Wilber-Clatonia), Peter Lyness (Milford), Ruth Merrett (Norris), Mary Jo Rupert (Norris), Amber Sterns (Crete), Mary Zach (Waverly), Nancy Rowch (NDE), Terri Schuster (NDE), Krista Kjeldgaard (NDE)

9:00 Welcome

- The group reviewed the top essential questions:
 - How can teachers in mainstream classrooms differentiate for ELLs?
 - What kind of support do we, as ELL teachers, need to provide to help support our mainstream teachers as they have English Language Learners in their classrooms?
 - What is our district data telling us about the progress of our ELLs and thus, the success of our instructional programs?
- Jen referred to the Nebraska "K-12 Guidelines for English Language Proficiency." Specifically, she asked participants to consider the vocabulary indicator: "Use survival vocabulary and phrases for school, class, home and personal information." Participants were asked to share three or four survival words/phrases when they introduced themselves. Some of the responses are listed:
 - Nurse, bathroom, office
 - Sit down, line up, my name is...,
 - Hello, please, thank you
 - I don't feel well; I don't understand; I need to call home; I need help; Please slow down; It's okay
 - Patience, attitude
 - Teachers' names
- Jen encouraged participants to study their district data regarding ELL students to determine which additional local, regional, or national training opportunities would be beneficial. We plan to facilitate an ELL specific data retreat next fall.
- ESU 6 and 7 have an exciting opportunity to combine their networks on February 23, 2010. We will meet at the Holiday Inn Express in Fremont to meet one another, share resources, discuss solutions to challenges, and collaborate on new projects. Call or email Jen for more information!
- Mary Zach, Waverly Intermediate School, presented how to use sentence frames and her Data Snapshot form. She has graciously agreed to share her materials, which Jen will post online.
- Jen shared a new resource: *Beyond the Bake-Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships* (Henderson et.al., 2007). We will be using some information and tools from this resources at our February 23 ELL Network with ESU 7.

Title III Updates

- Nancy Rowch and Terri Schuster of NDE provided updates regarding the ELDA administration for the spring of 2010. (See handout.) They also discussed progress toward a shortened ELDA for the 2011 administration.

- Our consortium and all individual districts met AMAO requirements. Districts present were given copies of their AMAO report along with two accompanying documents.
- Jen shared information that new IPT norms must be used with either the old (A & B) or new (C & D) forms of the IPT. Though we cannot order more tests because of Title III funding restrictions, we will continue to loan existing materials.
- User licenses for Rosetta Stone Online, Version 3, a computer-based supplementary program for language learning, are available on a first-come, first-served basis to ESU 6 Title III Consortium districts. Please contact Jen Madison for details. We still have a few open licenses!
- Jen shared a fact sheet regarding the LEARN Act, potential legislation for K-12 literacy funding and programs.
- The group discussed the possibility of Title III becoming a competitive versus a formula grant as it is now. To date, nothing has changed; however, federal level discussions are happening toward this effect.
- Jen reminded participants that Title III funds can be used for professional development. Thus, if district personnel have training needs, they should talk with Jen. Last spring, Janet Burger from Wilber-Clatonia, participated in a national conference for TPRS in San Antonio. Janet enthusiastically shared her experience at the conference and how she is using the training.

Upcoming ELL Network Sessions: (9:00 am – 11:45 am)

- February 23, 2010 (ESUs 6 & 7)
- April 20, 2010

11:45 Optional Lunch Discussion

- Members present shared additional resources and discussed challenges through lunch.